

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-56 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Please add new claims 57-96. The claims and their status are shown below.

57. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a pair of *capB* primers, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said first *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

58. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein said second *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2).

59. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a pair of *capB* primers, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said second *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2).

60. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 59, wherein said first *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

61. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising

a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said first *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3).

62. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein said second *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

63. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising

a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said second *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG- 3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

64. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 63, wherein said first *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3).

65. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 or 63, further comprising a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

66. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 65, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and a second *capB* probe labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

67. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 57 or 59, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *capB* primers to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

68. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61 or 63, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *capB* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

69. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *capB* primers and a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said first *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein said second *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein said first *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said second *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

70. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *pagA* primers, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said first *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5).

71. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein said second *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6).

72. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *pagA* primers, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said second *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6).

73. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein said first *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5).

74. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G- 3' (SEQ ID NO:7).

75. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 74, wherein said second *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT- 3' (SEQ ID NO:8).

76. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said second *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G- 3' (SEQ ID NO:7).

77. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 76, wherein said first *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT- 3' (SEQ ID NO:8).

78. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 74 or 76, further comprising a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

79. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 78, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and a second *pagA* probe labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

80. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 70 or 72, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *pagA* primers to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

81. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 74 or 76, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *pagA* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

82. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *pagA* primers and a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5), wherein said second *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT

CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein said first *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G- 3' (SEQ ID NO:7), wherein said second *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT- 3' (SEQ ID NO:8).

83. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *lef* primers, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said first *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9).

84. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 83, wherein said second *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10).

85. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *lef* primers, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said second *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10).

86. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 85, wherein said first *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9).

87. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said first *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11).

88. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 87, wherein said second *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).

89. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said second *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).

90. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 89, wherein said first *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11).

91. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 87 or 89, further comprising a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

92. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 91, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and a second *lef* probe labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

93. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 83 or 85, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *lef* primers to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

94. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 87 or 89, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *lef* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

95. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *lef* primers and a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said first *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9), wherein said second *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), wherein said first *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11), wherein said second *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).

96. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *capB* primers and a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said first *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein said second *capB* primer comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein said first *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said second *capB* probe comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4), said article of manufacture further comprising a pair of *pagA* primers and a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5), wherein said second *pagA* primer comprises the

sequence 5'-TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein said first *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G- 3' (SEQ ID NO:7), wherein said second *pagA* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT- 3' (SEQ ID NO:8), said article of manufacture further comprising a pair of *lef* primers and a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said first *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9), wherein said second *lef* primer comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), wherein said first *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11), wherein said second *lef* probe comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).